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(NORTH VIETNAM: US aircraft probably have sunk or damaged three of the four Komar-class guided-missile patrol boats that had recently arrived in North Vietnamese waters. Soviet freighters are thought to have delivered the boats to the Chinese port of Chanchiang in late November, and these craft apparently left that port on 16 December and arrived near the port of Hon Gai.

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Photography of 18 December showed three Komars and several other naval craft in this area. US Navy aircraft attacked them on 19 December, and the pilots reported sinking one Komar and damaging two others. The status of the other is not known.

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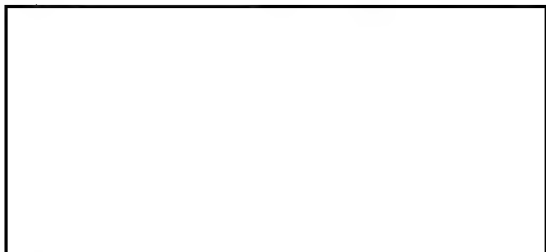
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